
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Kirk Beck, Wivory Brandle, Sally Cernie, Dan Gressmann, Gurumantra Khalsa, Michael Pierpoint, Erin Snyder, John Williams, Nancy Hart, Kathye Crumley, Susie Doss, Albert Figueroa, Paul Van Doren, Nancy Sturmer, Jeff Kraus

Members Excused: Taffi Romero, Steven Kirkpatrick

Members Unexcused: Christina Duran, Bernice Tank

Guests: Brenda Flowers, Darlene Elliott, Andrew Guerra, Andy Melendrez, Andrea and Hardy Crawford, Doris Williams, Norm Gritton, Aurora Chavez

Staff: Eva Yakutis, Housing & Neighborhoods Manager
Lucelia Rodriguez, Housing & Neighborhoods Staff

1. Call to Order/Introductions – Gurumantra Khalsa called meeting to order at 6:31 pm

2. Approval of Minutes for April 2, 2007

Erin Snyder moved to approve minutes – seconded by Kathye Crumley - carried.

3. Visiting Councilmember

Andy Melendrez gave brief report on neighborhood group activity in Ward 2. Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association participated in a community celebration sponsored by Parks, Recreation, and Community Services at Lincoln Park on 5 de mayo. The group used this event to recruit more neighbors by having them sign up during the event.

4. Concerns from Visiting Neighborhoods

Board member Susie Doss had a concern about a mentally impaired person inside business office in the La Sierra area who was not being assisted by the police. Eva mentioned the Homeless Outreach Team could be of assistance in these types of situations and Erin Snyder mentioned that the City’s 311 Call Center could also be of assistance.

5. Mayor’s Neighborhood Needs/Assets Assessment and Diagnosis Report

Brenda Flowers introduced herself as Manny Leon’s replacement for the Mayor’s Night Out Program and gave status of the Neighborhoods Needs/Assets Assessment and Diagnosis Report to the board. Nancy Hart mentioned the April 17, 2007, Council Meeting Minutes where Council recommended that the Development Dept. evaluate the Neighborhood Report and report to the Community Services Youth Committee with a plan to proceed with drafting a neighborhood diagnostic analysis.

6. Housing & Neighborhoods Report

a) 2007 Neighborhood Conference/Awards

- Eva announced that Bruni Mercado, the current Neighborhoods staff person, will be leaving to a different position within the City after the June 30 Neighborhood Conference. Eva is currently in the process of trying to hire a Community Relations person to help with the Neighborhood Programs.

- Eva discussed the different ways the Housing & Neighborhoods Division was marketing the Neighborhood Conference and asked that Riverside Neighborhood Partnership (RNP) board members help with advertising the conference as well. Eva announced that there will be sign ups for RNP volunteers to help out the day of the conference. Councilwoman Nancy Hart suggested that different RNP members come to weekly Council meetings to announce the Neighborhood Conference to help advertise the event - Housing & Neighborhoods Division to send out schedule for Council Meetings. Eva gave a brief description of this year's Neighborhood Conference Keynote Speaker and referred everyone to look at his short biography on the conference registration form.
- The RNP Application for board members/alternates was reviewed and discussed by the board. Changes made included adding the name of resident's neighborhood association and contact and deleting essay question. Erin Snyder made motion for these changes, seconded by Dan Gressmann.

b) Great American Clean Up

Flyers for the event were mailed to all RNP members and neighborhood leaders with the RNP agenda and minutes. Eva suggested that the RNP have a booth at the Great American Clean Up event - Erin Snyder to coordinate and Eva to contact Keep America Clean & Beautiful.

7. RNP Board Outreach Strategy

a) Events Subcommittee

The RNP would have a booth at all neighborhood clean ups.

b) Other

No discussion

8. Subcommittee Reports

a) RNP Application

See Item 6

b) Change/Addition to Bylaws

Tabled to next meeting

9. Future Agenda Items

None

10. Other Items/Public Comment

- Eva gave status on the Kawa Market project – Wood Streets Neighborhood Assn. was to have a meeting on May 9th, 2007, at Magnolia Elementary at 6:30 pm to discuss issue.
- Nancy Sturmer passed out flyers for Old Riverside Foundation Home Tour on May 19, 2007.
- Nancy Hart passed out flyers for the Arlington Partnership Chili Cook Off – RNP planned to have a table at this event.
- Paul Van Doren passed out flyers for the 3rd Annual Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition Fundraiser on June 2, 2007.

Eva Yakutis discussed upcoming trip to the Neighborhoods USA Conference in Baton Rouge to do a presentation for the Best Neighborhood Program of the Year Award of which the City of Riverside's 2006 Neighborhood Conference was a finalist.

11. Next Meeting

Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2007 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. and minutes were prepared by Housing & Neighborhoods Office staff.